

REMARKS

Claims 15-35 are pending in this application. Claims 15, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 30 have been amended in several particulars to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 31-35 have been newly added to alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention over the cited prior art of record.

The Examiner's several courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during an in-person Office Interview conducted on March 2, 2004 are noted with appreciation. According to the Examiner Interview Summary Record, both the Examiner and his supervisor have indicated that,

"Should an exclusionary statement of ignoring or not extracting pixels of the other color be amended in the independent claims it would appear to overcome the prior art rejection presented."

Pursuant to the agreement reached with the Examiner and his supervisor, each of Applicants' independent claims 15, 21 and 25 have been amended to exclude extraction of image data obtained through the remaining colors of the color filter in order to overcome the outstanding of claims 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner now alleges as "Applicant's Admitted Prior Art" in view of newly cited art, Endsley et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,005,613, and to place all claims in condition for allowance.

For example, base claim 15 has been amended to define an image processing apparatus comprising, *inter alia*:

a color imaging device including photo-detectors and a color filter arranged on the imaging surface in two-dimensions, for performing photoelectric conversion of the image of the object formed by the imaging optical system to obtain image data of the image of the object extracted through selected only one color of the color filter exclusive of other non-selected colors of the color filter;

a control unit for generating **single synthesized image data** using image data of the image of the object obtained through selected only one color of the color filter exclusive of other non-selected colors of the color filter of the color imaging device, and image data of the image of the object obtained through the selected only one color of the color filter exclusive of other non-selected colors of the color filter when the imaging optical system and the photo-detectors are shifted relative to each other by the shift drive means by a distance corresponding to a predetermined pitch on the imaging surface in a predetermined direction;

wherein the control unit includes output means for outputting the single synthesized image data as single monochromatic image data.

Likewise, independent claim 25 defines the same image processing apparatus in terms of means-plus-function clauses.

Similarly, base method claim 21 defines an image processing method comprising:

forming an image of an object on an imaging surface of a color imaging device by an imaging optical system;

extracting **first image data** of the image of the object of a selected only one color exclusive of other non-selected colors available from an image of the object formed on the imaging surface;

shifting the image of the object formed on the imaging surface by a distance corresponding to a predetermined pitch on the imaging surface in a predetermined direction;

extracting **second image data** of the image of the object of the selected only one color exclusive of other non-selected colors available from an image of the object obtained after shifting is performed;

synthesizing the first and second image data to generate **single synthesized image data**;

outputting the single synthesized image data as **single monochromatic image data**.

As expressly defined in each of Applicants' claims 15, 21 and 25, the synthesized image data is obtained by synthesizing the first image data of the image of the object of a selected only one color exclusive of other non-selective colors from the image of the object formed on the imaging surface, and the second image data of the image of the object of a selected only one color exclusive of other non-

selected colors obtained after shifting is performed. As a result, the monochromatic image data of high resolution can be advantageously obtained using the color imaging device.

In view of the foregoing amendments pursuant to the agreement reached with the Examiner and his supervisor and the above explanations, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-30 are now deemed to be allowable.

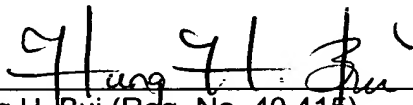
Lastly, claims 31-35 have been newly added to alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention over the prior art of record. These claims are believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons discussed. A fee of \$196.00 is incurred by the addition of claims 31-35. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 500.40886X00), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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